

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LAGOS 07514 141323Z

41

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 AID-20 EB-11 OMB-01 DRC-01 /155 W

----- 093606

R BQRQHWZ SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1066

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

USINT ALGIERS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 7514

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ET, SO, OAU, NI

SUBJECT: ETHIOPIA-SOMALIA DISPUTE: OAU EFFORTS

REF: LAGOS 7125 NOTAL

BEGIN SUMMARY: OAU "GOOD OFFICES" COMMITTEE MET IN ALGIERS ON FRINGE OF NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE AS ANTICIPATED REFTEL. MEETING LIMITED TO DISCUSSION OF APPROPRIATE NEXT STEPS BUT REACHED NO NEW CONCLUSIONS. END SUMMARY

1. DIRECTOR MEA AFRICA DEPARTMENT OGUNSULIRE, WHO ACCOMPANIED GOWON TO ALGIERS, CONFIRMED TO EMBOFF SEPTEMBER 13 THAT OAU "GOOD OFFICES" COMMITTEE ON ETHIOPIA-SOMALIA DISPUTE MET ON FRINGE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE AS ANTICIPATED REFTEL. OBJECTIVE OF MEETING WAS TO DECIDE ON APPROPRIATE NEXT STEPS FOR COMMITTEE IN SEARCH FOR SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTE.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LAGOS 07514 141323Z

2. UNFORTUNATELY, OGUNSULIRE SAID, COMMITTEE WAS ONLY ABLE MEET ONE DAY BECAUSE OF PRESSURE NAC BUSINESS AND DEMANDS ON TIME OF COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN NIMEIRI ARISING FROM SUDENESE DOMESTIC UNREST. AS RESULT, COMMITTEE HAD INSUFFICIENT TIME FULLY DISCUSS ISSUE AND WAS UNABLE REACH ANY AGREEMENT ON HOW TO PROCEED. COMMITTEE AS SUCH DID NOT MEET WITH EITHER ETHIOPIAN OR SOMALI REPRESENTATIVES AT ALGIERS (THIS HAD NEVER BEEN EXPECTED), BUT GOWON HAD BIREF BILATERAL MEETING WITH SIAD BARRE JUST PRIOR TO LATTER'S DEPARTURE.

3. OGUNSULIRE EXPECTS EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO CONVENE COMMITTEE AGAIN, BUT HAS NO IDEA WHEN OR WHERE MEETING LIKELY TO TAKE PLACE. KEY FIGURE IN ENTIRE OAU EFFORT IS NIMEIRI, OGUNSULIRE SAID, AND NOTHING CAN BE DONE UNTIL SUDANESE INTERNAL SITUATION STABILIZES AND NIMEIRI CAN AGAIN TURN HIS ATTENTION TO COMMITTEE BUSINESS. SINCE NIGERIANS FEEL NIMEIRI HAS BEEN WEAKENED BY RECENT EVENTS IN SUDAN, OGUNSULIRE BELIEVES SOME DELAY LIKELY BEFORE FRESH MEETING CAN BE SCHEDULED.

4. OGUNSULIRE REITERATED BASIC JUDGEMENT THAT PROBLEM ESSENTIALLY INTRACTABLE BECAUSE ETHIOPIAN AND SOMALI VIEWPOINTS DIAMETRCALLY OPPOSED. ETHIOPIANS, HE REMARKED, WANT MINIMAL OAU INTERFERENCE IN ENTIRE BORDER QUESTION, AND WOULD REALLY LIKE TO SEE OAU SIMPLY PUT MARKERS ON EXISTING FRONTIER AND GO AWAY. SOMALIS, ON OTHER HAND, WANT ACTIVE OAU ROLE TO SUPPORT THEIR CLAIMS. IN THIS REGARD, OGUNSULIRE WONDERED ALOUD WHY GSDR HAD CHOSEN HEAT UP BORDER ISSUE AT THIS TIME AFTER LONG PERIOD OF RELATIVE CALM, SUGGESTING POSSIBILITY OF PETROLEUM DISCOVERIES OR COVER-UP FOR SOMALI INTERNAL TROUBLES AS POSSIBLE MOTIVES.

5. FOR MOGADISCIO: WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR VIEWS ON QUESTION RAISED BY OGUNSULIRE IN FORM WE CAN PASS ON TO MEA.  
REINHARDT

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 11 SEP 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** garlanwa  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973LAGOS07514  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GDS  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** LAGOS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t19730961/aaaajzyf.tel  
**Line Count:** 98  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** LAGOS 7125 NOTAL  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** garlanwa  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 09 JAN 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <09-Jan-2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <28-Jan-2002 by garlanwa>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 980313  
**Subject:** ETHIOPIA-SOMALIA DISPUTE: OAU EFFORTS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, ET, NI, SO, OAU, PFOR  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005